

It is my understanding that wireless companies are claiming that the lack of number portability is not an inhibitor to open competition in the marketplace. This is certainly not my view, nor the view of any other cell phone user that I know: control of the phone number is an artificial hold on the customer that restricts a consumer's free ability to choose carriers. It is obvious to me that if consumers had to change their phone numbers in order to change their long distance service provider, competition from MCI and others with AT&T's long distance monopoly would have been much less strong, and the competitive nature of the industry would have stifled, and consumers may never have realized the enormous reduction in long distance costs we've seen in the last two decades.

I encourage you to require cellphone carriers to implement number portability.